

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for improving the long term stability of biodiesel, ~~wherein~~ comprising:

(a) forming a reaction mixture comprising a crude methyl ester, ~~is formed~~ by transesterification of a vegetable or animal fat or oil with methanol,

~~wherein~~

(b) forming a layer containing the crude methyl ester of step (a), and separating the layer from the rest of the reaction mixture,

~~(b) (c) intensively inline mixing the crude methyl ester layer formed~~ obtained in step (a)

(b) is intensively inline-mixed at temperatures between 25 and 60°C with a strong acid or with a mixture of a strong acid and a complex former, to form an emulsion, and

~~(e) (d) separating an ester layer separated from the emulsion formed in step (b) (c), is subjected~~ and then subjecting the separated ester layer to a thorough water wash and is ~~subsequently dried~~ a subsequent drying.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, ~~ptoluenesulfonie~~ p-toluenesulfonic acid or phosphoric acid are employed as a strong acid, and ~~EDTA~~ ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid or citric acid are employed as a complex former, if present.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the water wash is carried out in a wash column according to the counter current principle or by means of a mechanically intensive mixer.